

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

CONTRACEPTION

Sobrero, Aquiles J. and Lewit, Sarah (Editors). *Advances in Planned Parenthood.* Cambridge, Mass., 1965. Schenkman Publishing Co. Pp. 151. Price \$5.95.

THIS BOOK IS an account of the proceedings of the first Annual Conference of physicians from Planned Parenthood Clinics in the USA. In the opening chapter, Dr. Sobrero outlines some of the problems. Apparently more than 50 per cent of the clients attending the Margaret Sanger Research Bureau fail to return, and at least 30 per cent of them are known to fail to use the method prescribed. He regards the chief shortcomings of clinics as lack of privacy and brevity of contact with the doctor, and believes that new methods require more of the doctors' time, and that arrangements should be made for the clients to see the same doctor at each visit. He also mentions the need to pay some attention to the husband and makes it sound as if their problems are the same as ours.

There are papers dealing with the statistical assessment of new and old methods, with providing a contraceptive service in hospitals in large and small cities, and the integration of such advice into the public health and welfare services. Emphasis is given to the need for qualified investigators in related fields of social and demographic studies to co-operate in the work of clinics.

Oral contraception as a method is dealt with, but there is more detail about the newer method of the intra-uterine plastic devices. Dr. Tietze gives the statistical results of the consolidated series, and there is an account of the use of this method in the Chicago clinic, and also in an indigent population with a minimum of medical supervision and of patient co-operation. This clinic is held in one of the New York hospitals, but the devices are used without sterile technique or laboratory screening procedures, without follow-up or preliminary discussion with the patients.

There is a brief look at methods likely to

become applicable in the future of fertility control for men as well as for women, and a chapter devoted to ovarian physiology and induction of ovulation.

This book will suit those who want a simple, brief review of the field of giving contraceptive advice in clinics. It is what it was meant to be—a revision course for doctors working in the field, but it is not detailed enough for those who want a full account of any one method.

ELEANOR MEARS

SOCIOLOGY

Morris, Pauline (For P.E.P.). *Prisoners and their Families.* London, 1965. Allen and Unwin. Pp. 327. Price 50s. cloth, 21s. paper.

IN 1788, WHEN the Philanthropic Society of London opened its doors to children of executed and transported criminals, it gave expression to public awareness of the fact that the punishment of an offender is liable to have repercussions which extend beyond the individual, not only in terms of deterrence, which is a deliberately chosen aim, but also in terms of an extension of punishment to the dependents of an offender, which remains a sadly neglected moral issue. So much so, that Mrs. Morris's study is the first attempt made in this country to examine the effects of prison sentences on the families of offenders. This in itself would make the book worth while. Since it is also a well-designed, carefully executed study, it will rank as an important contribution to criminology.

Mrs. Morris has divided her research into three parts. The first is an extensive schedule based survey of a random sample of the married prison population. The second is an intensive study of a small group of prisoners and their families. In both groups "star" prisoners are compared with "recidivists". The third group to be studied consisted of civil prisoners, that is to say, men who were committed to prison for contempt of court (in not paying a civil debt or maintenance). Not surprisingly, Mrs.